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AUGUST 2.

MR. CHARLES MORRIS in the Chair.

Nine persons present.

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AUGUST 9.

MR. BENJAMIN SMITH LYMAN in the Chair.

Thirteen persons present.

The following biographical note was presented by the Committee on the Hayden Memorial Award :

OTTO MARTIN TORELL.—Born in Varberg in Sweden, the 5th of June, 1828, he passed the examination for entrance into the University of Lund in 1844, and was made Doctor of Philosophy, 1853. He then turned his attention to medical studies, and passed the second examination for physicians in the year 1858. He became Adjunct Professor of Zoology in 1860, and in 1866 was nominated as Professor of Zoology and Geology at the University of Lund. He soon left the University for Stockholm, and was in 1871 appointed Chief of the Geological Survey of Sweden, which office he resigned some months ago.

In 1856 he visited Switzerland with the object of studying the glaciers, and in 1857 he made a voyage to Iceland with the same view. His main purpose was to determine whether it is probable that glaciers formerly covered the whole of Scandinavia.

In 1858, in company with A. E. Nordenskiold, he went to Spitzbergen for the first time, and the following year to Greenland. These voyages may be said to have led to the Swedish Polar Expeditions, and Torell was himself the leader or manager of the first of these of any importance, namely, the expedition to Spitzbergen in 1861, which was very rich in scientific results.

The most important part of his work at Spitzbergen was his deep sea investigations with the grapnel, which were executed in order to study the animal life at the bottom of the sea (2,500 meters below the surface), a depth from which before that time only foraminifers had been obtained. This discovery afterwards led to many researches of the sea bottom, through which, one may say, a new era has arisen in the history of the geology and physical geography of the ocean bed.

Partly for scientific studies and partly as a member of geological and geographical congresses, Professor Torell has made many jour-

neys to Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, France, Belgium, Holland, England, and the United States.

He was one of the first Swedish naturalists to accept the glacial theory in place of the theory (by Sefstrom) of the "rullstensflood." Of his works, those which treat of the ice period are the most important. To these, belong "Contribution to the molluscan fauna, with a general view of the natural state of the Arctic Regions," (1859); "Investigations of the Ice Period," 1, (1873), 2, (1873), and 3, (1887); and "On the causes of glacial phenomena in the northeastern portion of North America."

Partly by these works and partly by lectures Torell has, in Sweden as abroad, powerfully contributed to the dissemination of the theory that the territory of northern Europe, where great blocks of Scandinavian rocks have been found, was formerly covered by land ice, extending from Scandinavia, like the ice in Greenland at the present time, and not, as had been formerly supposed, by a frozen sea (Eismeer).

Among other works of Torell may be mentioned: "On geological researches in Norway," (1865); "Contribution to the geognosy and paleontology of the Spargurite Stages," (1867); "Petrificata Suecana formationis Cambricæ," (1870); "Sur les traces les plus anciennes de l'existence de l'homme en Suède," (1876); "On the most important crystalline minerals," (1882); "The deposits on both sides of the boundary between Sweden and Norway," (1888). In 1868 the Scientific Society in Haarlem awarded to him its first prize for his work on the origin of the diluvial deposits at Gröningen in Holland.

Dr. Torell is a member of the Royal Society of Sciences of Swedens (1870), of the Agricultural Academy (1872), and of many other scientific societies in Sweden and abroad.

He is Commander of the Swedish "North Star;" Grand Officer of the Italian Order of the Crown; Knight of the second class of the Russian Order of St. Anna; Commander of the Danish Dannébrog; Officer of Public Instruction and Officier de la Legion d'honneur.

AUGUST 16.

MR. BENJAMIN SMITH LYMAN in the Chair.

Ten persons present.

Papers under the following titles were presented for publication:—